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PATENT

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CLARK A. PONTIGAM

Name

Clark A. Pontigam

Signature

10 July 1997

Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Edmund O. Schweitzer et al
Serial No : 08/655,008
Filed : May 29, 1996
For : SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATING OUTPUT FUNCTION STATUS
INDICATIONS BETWEEN TWO OR MORE POWER SYSTEM
PROTECTIVE RELAYS

Art Unit: 2603

Examiner: K. Yao

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

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Claim 1. (twice amended). A system for communicating the status of output bits from one protective relay to a second protective relay in a power system, wherein the relay output bits are the result of a fault determination calculation process in the one relay which would conventionally be used to set output contacts of said one relay, comprising:

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means at the one relay for formatting said output bits into a data packet;

means for directly transmitting said data packer over a communications link to said second relay[, bypassing said output contacts of said one relay and any associated communications means]:
and

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means at the second relay for receiving said data packet, verifying the validity of said data packet, obtaining the transmitted output bits from said data packet and then utilizing said obtained output bits as input bits in its own fault determination calculation process.

REMARKS

Further consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. In the action of April 10, 1997, the examiner indicated that claims 1-7 contained allowable subject matter. However, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, the examiner indicating that the phrase "bypassing said output contacts of said one relay and any associated communications means" is vague.

While applicant does not necessarily agree with the examiner's position, particularly in view of the remarks concerning that particular language in the previous amendment, it is believed that the phrase is unnecessary to allowability of the claim and hence has been eliminated.

Even though the above action was made final, the only rejection of the claims is now moot. Hence, this amendment should be considered and the application allowed. Allowance of claims 1-7 is thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
JENSEN & PUNTIGAM, P.S.

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